

Application No. 10/617,675
Inventor: Maryellen L. Giger, et al.

REMARKS

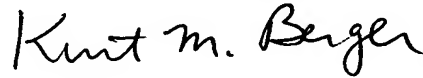
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment amends the specification to include a Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-19 is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt M. Berger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Attorney of Record
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
EHK:KMB\la